SANCTUARY

Newsletter of the White Memorial Conservation Center Vol. XXXIII No. 1 Winter 2015

Museum Hours:

Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

For Information

Phone: 860-567-0857 E-Mail: info@whitememorialcc.org Website: www.whitememorialcc.org



Snow Wonder, Photo credit: Leo Kulinski, Jr.

Road Salt Effects on Wildlife and Habitat By James Fischer, Research Director, The White Memorial Conservation Center

Salt is a very useful deicer on roads, parking lots, driveways, and walkways but salt can be harmful to human health, wildlife and their habitats, and vegetation. Given how efficient it is as a deicer, salt and other deicers can cause problems when excessive amounts are used. When we think of salt damage we often consider the corrosive actions that occur on our vehicles and infrastructure such as bridges, water pipes, and parking garages.

Excessive salt impacts drinking water supply, both in reservoirs and ground water. Sodium, chloride, and other deicing elements are closely monitored by water companies and reported to Environmental Protection Agencies (US EPA & CT DEEP) and CT Department of Public Health so that physicians can inform people who are salt sensitive. Private water wells are not monitored by public agencies but interested homeowners can have their water tested. Contact your local health department for qualified water testing laboratories. Birds are very susceptible to salt poisoning. They mistake salt crystals as grit, which they eat to help them grind food in their gizzards since they do not have teeth. Birds' kidneys do not function in the same way as mammal kidneys and cannot excrete excess sodium which affects their water balance and other vital physiological functions. Mammals can be negatively impacted by digesting too much salt. They lap up salty water and lick salt-treated road surfaces which brings them closer to traffic and can lead to vehicle collisions. Amphibian eggs and larvae do not survive as well at moderate levels of salt and explains why we see low

recruitment from vernal pools and other breeding habitats near salt treated roads.



Freshwater invertebrates and microscopic plant life that serve as food for organisms higher up the trophic layer are severely impacted by small increases in salinity in streams and other freshwater habitats. Vegetation is damaged or killed by salt.



Salt is used as an herbicide. Some invasive plants are salt tolerant and can outcompete native species (i.e. Phragmites and Japanese Knotweed). Freshwater aquatic plants can be greatly impacted because their plant tissues regulate water balance by creating salt gradients from

within plant cell walls versus the salt in the water. Salt spray generated by high volume and fast traffic impacts vegetation up to several hundred feet away from the road. Altering vegetation ultimately changes wildlife habitat by impacting the availability of food, cover, or water quality. This leaves us with a very complicated paradox when salt is an efficient deicer but there many negative environmental outcomes that come from treating traffic surfaces with salt and other deicers.

Public municipalities have been addressing this issue by approaching it from a cost savings approach while ensuring the greatest efficacy of treating road surfaces. It is a very complicated issue because treating road surfaces requires a close examination of weather patterns, traffic volume, and road surface moisture. Best management practices have been developed and different mixtures of salt, sand, and other deicing agents are used throughout the season. After a heavy snowstorm sometimes snow needs to be transported. This material should not be stored near a stream or river because it contains high concentrations of deicers and debris, as well as other pollutants. The best places are at least 50 feet away from watercourses and wetlands so that buffering soil and vegetation can filter the melt water.



Continued from page 1

- Obviously, start by putting your property on a low salt diet!
- ♦ Shovel the snow and ice thoroughly and often. Remove it before it is compacted by tires or foot traffic. Hard-packed snow often forms into ice very quickly.
- ◆ Although some deicers say they are safer for the environment and pets, using too much negates the safer impact and ends up impacting your household budget more because they often cost more than sand or traditional salt (sodium chloride).
- Ask your snow removal contractor to be careful when using deicers in terms of what they use and how/when they apply it. It might encourage a lower monthly contract bill.
- Consider where you place the snow piles.
 - 1. What's the point if the melt water runs into your driveway or sidewalks then refreezes?
 - 2. Make sure your drainage is not plugged up with leaves and other debris.
 - 3. Double check that the snow pile does not melt onto infrastructure that is vulnerable to salt corrosion. Salt deteriorates metal reinforcement bar in concrete and other exposed metals.

- Wear traction aides on your shoes when walking outside, many of them are easy to put on and take off, not to mention prevent bruising your backsides when you slip and fall.
- Over the long term, consider the surfaces you use on your driveways and walkways. Gravel-type surfaces and other similar substrates permit water drainage throughout the year and offer more traction than a smooth surface, such as asphalt. Consult a landscaping professional to consider the range of options that are feasible for this region.

New England winters give us all kinds of winter weather which often can be beautiful but can be an obstacle to accomplishing everyday tasks. We often might overlook some wildlife species in the winter because they are not as active as they are in the warmer seasons. But the actions we take in the winter can impact them greatly and we might not make the connection until they have been impacted too much. Since salt is such a useful deicer and widely used on private property and public roadways alike, then this is one opportunity where we take responsibility for the environment as individuals rather than leaving it up to someone else. It starts with all of us making everyday choices and decisions that limit our impact on vital re-



Photo credit: cicilycorbett.blogspot.com

White Memorial Conservation Center Announces Annual Year-End Appeal

The 50th Anniversary celebration of The White Memorial Conservation Center has come to a close. We at the Conservation Center however, celebrate the glory of nature every day of every year. Alain and May White certainly would approve of our banquet of program offerings dished out for children and adults. Our research and conservation programs yield interesting and often alarming conclusions: earthworm studies, bluebird and wood duck house inventories, Emerald Ash Borer survey, and the new weather station. We do hope YOU are as inspired as we are by this astonishing piece of property.

Our 2014 calendar was laden with compelling programming like *The Bewitching Witch Hazel*, and *White Birds: the Snowy Owl and Gyrfalcon*. In *Fall Guys*, we explored waterfalls on the properties gifted to the State

of Connecticut by the Whites: Kent Falls, Dean Ravine, and Campbell Falls. Some of your old favorites were back! What would April be without the *Woodcock Cocktail Party* or June and *The Celebration for Bats* or July's *Celebration of the Bantam River*?

In June, after 37 years of service we said farewell to our beloved Education Director, Jeff Greenwood and after an extensive nationwide search found a worthy successor in Carrie Szwed! Carrie wasted no time in putting her finger prints on her new position with interesting embellishments to summer programming and Family Nature Day!

If there is something you would like to see on our calendar or in children's programming simply give us a call or email: info@whitememorialcc.org!

Enclosed in this newsletter is a contribution card and envelope. A donation, no matter how small, will indicate that we are serving your interests in the best possible way.

You can also support the Conservation Center throughout the year with **Planned Giving.** Information is available through our website or call for details!

The Center Staff thanks you for your kind support. We wish you very happy holidays and hope to see you frequently at the Museum, on the trails, and registering you and your family for our programs in 2015!



HOT STUFF!!! The 33rd Annual Family Nature Day!

Warm weather and a speckless sky set the stage for the 33rd Annual Family Nature Day on Saturday, September 27, 2014. Over 1200 guests stormed through the gates of Whitehall to partake in our celebration! Nineteen vendors selling beautiful handcrafted items lined the main drag. The Ceder Room lawn bustled with arts and crafts activities while our neighbor organizations lined the outside lawn answering questions about bee keeping, bird watching, astronomy, clean energy, native planting, and so much more.

We learned some time ago that an abundance of animals always draws a crowd. The festival was a veritable ark full of bats, porcupines, raptors, goats, horses, alpacas, and reptiles. Beautiful music from Robert Messore and The Boxcar Lilies filtered through the grounds. New Education Director Carrie Szwed hosted a turtle race. The Litchfield Lions doled out hot dogs and toasted cheese sandwiches.



Rich Stanley and Ginny Garratt were the big winners of a trip for two to Iceland in our raffle! Sattie the Sheltie will have to stay home!

Gorgeous sweet treats from AmandaBakes along with copious amounts of iced coffee, tea, and lemonade kept tummies humming.

The most anticipated moment of the day was seeing who would win a trip for two to Iceland as first prize in our raffle. The trip was donated by Krummi Travel LLC and Rich Stanley from Simsbury held the lucky ticket! 950 of 1000 tickets sold making this the most profitable Nature Day on record!

The Conservation Center Staff and the Education & Activities Committee are deeply grateful to Northwest Community Bank, Litchfield Bancorp, Krummi Travel LLC, Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation, Walmart, Union Savings Bank, and an anonymous donor as well as a legion of volunteers for their generous contributions of time and so much more which kept this big wheel turning!



UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR THE KIDS...

Nature's Nursery Series

Thursdays, Feb. 5, Mar. 5, Apr. 2, & May 7 Grades: Pre-K — Kindergarten 3:45-4:45pm Members: \$6/child per session

or \$20 for whole series

Non-members: \$9/child per session
or \$32 for whole series

Join us on the first Thursday of each month from Feb. through May for an hour-long program designed just for your young nature lovers. Every session will include a story, an encounter with a live animal, and an activity or craft. Bring your kids out to White Memorial for a jam-packed hour of hands-on learning. Parents, we ask that you stay for the duration of the program. Meet in the Ceder Room. Advanced registration is appreciated.



After-School Adventures

Grades 1-3: Wednesdays in March Grades 4-6: Tuesdays in March (except 31st) 3:45-5pm

Members: \$8/child per session or \$25 for whole series Non-members: \$12/child per session or \$45 for whole series

The school day is over, but these kids still want to learn! Bring them out to White Memorial for programs designed to awaken curiosity for the natural world. Every session brings a new adventure, whether it's exploring a new part of WMF property, meeting a new live animal, or taking part in a new outdoor activity. Parents are welcome to stay, but it is not necessary. Meet in the Ceder Room. Advanced registration is appreciated.

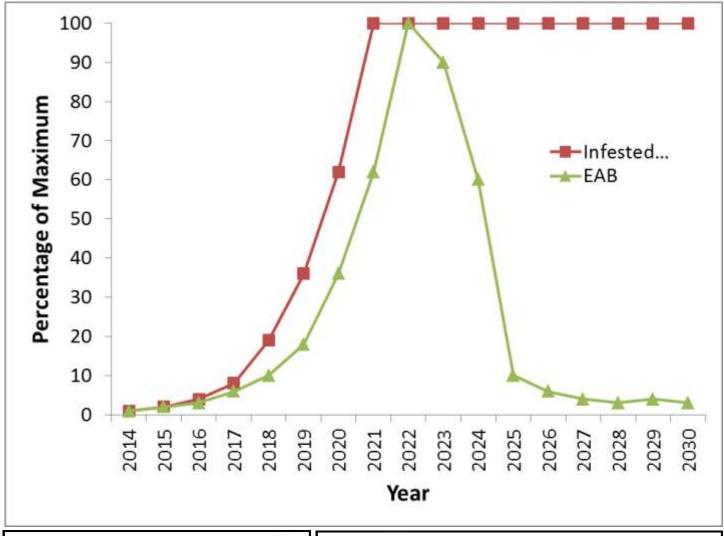
To register for these programs, please call 860-567-0857 or visit whitememorialcc.org and print out a registration form.



Invasive Emerald Ash Borer Arrives on White Memorial Property by James Fischer, Research Director

Volunteers invested hundreds of hours over the past 4 years searching for the first sign of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) at White Memorial. The Seherr-Thoss Foundation granted us money for materials used to build traps that targeted EAB. It finally happened, EAB was found throughout the property for the first time in early July 2014. Sad news but it was inevitable ever since EAB was first documented in the state in 2012. Ash mortality will increase on the property at an exponential rate. We can estimate the amount of ash mortality because we know the exact season when EAB arrived. We will likely start to observe dead or dying ash trees by EAB in 2019, at which point mortality will increase rapidly (see chart). We expect nearly

99% of the ash trees to be dying or dead by 2025. We hope to slow ash mortality through the use of biological control agents that will be released on the property during the summer 2015. These agents specifically target EAB and kill the adult beetles or larvae. As the ash population declines, EAB will decline. Resistant trees might be observed on the property and these may be used to propagate future ash trees. We hope to collect Black Ash seeds so they could be stored and germinated as a conservation strategy for this indicator species of critical wetland habitats. Unfortunately, it will require several human generations to foster the future ash population to where we see it now.







A Planned Gift can make a difference in your future and ours.

www.whitememorialcc.org

Volunteer Spotlight Mary Hawvermal e Story and Photo by Gerri Griswold

"All my life I have been interested in nature and art." Nature and art are symbiotic and both are a force in Mary Hawvermale's life.

Although Hawvermale grew up in Westchester County, much of her time was spent in Bethlehem at her grandparent's farm. She studied art in Boston, eventually opening up a fine art photography gallery there. When the gallery closed, Hawvermale settled in Connecticut and returned to school. She received a Bachelor of General Studies at UCONN and a Masters Degree in

Biology from Southern Connecticut State University. A course offered by The Mystic Aquarium led Mary to a cathartic moment in her life, "We were on a whale watching trip to the Mingin Islands in Canada. We were out in a zodiac and pulled up to a whale. I was completely awestruck." In addition to studying cetaceans, Hawvermale also fell in love with birds and traveled to Africa birding with Noble Proctor.

Mary always loved White Memorial and hiked and jogged its trails regularly. "I've jogged every trail in this place!" She even opened a nature store in Litchfield, Wildlife Landing. She became involved with the Conservation Center when her sons were born. She even served on our Education / Activities Committee for years participating in Nature Day and Museum Sleep-ins. "My boys went to Rock Camp with (former Education Director) Gordon Loery. They collected rocks from all over the state. We have a vast collection of rocks at home." Her photographs were exhibited



Renaissance Woman: Mary Hawvermale



One of Hawvermale's Shadow Boxes

in the old Nature Museum. She drifted away from us for awhile as her sons grew up but knew one day she would return to volunteer. "I became a hockey widow."

Approaching Research Director James Fischer for a volunteer opportunity was a no-brainer when Hawvermale was laid off from a job. Today she enters data from 1960 - 1965 into a database called *Ebird*. The data helps track historical populations of birds at the Foundation. There are eight notebooks filled with entries and Mary loves the work "because it is about birds."

This jill-of-all-trades also taught at Washington Montessori School, "I switch careers every six years." There she served as an assistant teacher, taught science, worked in the office, and ran a nature after-school program.

Mary spends a lot of time in the woods, "It is my happy place." She began amassing found objects from the forest. Boxes began

piling up in her home chock full of natural treasures. When Mary was recovering from breast cancer surgery she began making jewel-like shadow boxes of acorns, feathers, insects, and other items. Recovery took some time, "It was a long year." The collection of shadow boxes became quite prolific, so much so that she exhibited them at the Washington Art Association selling seventeen pieces, "It validated me as an artist."

Today Hawvermale lives on her grandparent's property in Bethlehem with her husband of thirty years, Erik.

"To do something I love and be a part of a place like White Memorial fulfills me," says Mary. "I want to do something that has meaning and try to do what I can to help the planet."

Multi-faceted Mary Hawvermale is our ultimate all-around volunteer having touched and impacted this organization in so many extraordinary ways.





25th Annual Museum Sleep-In

Friday, April 24, 5:00 P.M. to Saturday, April 25, 12:00 Noon Members \$55.00 Non-Members \$75.00

Call the Museum 860-567-0857 to register or visit our website

www.whitememorialcc.org

Winter Calendar of Events

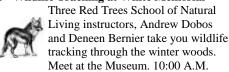
For more information on any of our programs, please call us at 860-567-0857

JANUARY

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Museum Closed



3 Wildlife Tracking at White Memorial



3 Winter Walk Along Butternut Brook and Lake Trails with Marlow Shami

1:00 P.M., Meet at the A. B. Ceder Room.

10 Film: 180 South

This inspiring and beautiful film documents an epic journey to Chilean Patagonia. 2:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room



12 - 18 Museum Children Free Week* Courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. John Morosani In Memory of Remy Edmund Morosani

17 Firewood 101 with Tom Worthlev An extraordinary primer on all aspects of firewood! 9:00 A.M.- 12:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room. Please pre-register by calling 860-567-0857.

17 Identifying Connecticut's Owls with Fran Zvgmont



2:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room

19 Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day **Museum Closed**

24 Family Ice Fishing Workshop

CT DEEP Fisheries experts teach you everything about water, fish & fishing, how to think like a fish and have some safe fun! An outstanding opportunity to learn from the best in the classroom and on the ice! Bring a lunch and dress for the weather! FREE admission. Preregistration

required. 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.



31 Cut It Out! The Local History and **Practice of Ice Harvesting**

Ice once harvested from Bantam Lake was used throughout the year! Visit the Museum display on ice harvesting, walk to the old ice house ruins, and watch Carrie Szwed, Jeff Greenwood, and James Fischer demonstrate ice cutting the old fashioned way! Dress for the weather! Please pre-register. 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M., Meet in the Museum.

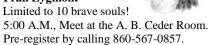
Winter Landscape in Watercolor with Betsy Rogers-Knox See page 7 for details and registration.

1.1

FEBRUARY

5 Nature's Nursery Series: See page 3

7 EARLY Owl Prowl with Fran Zygmont



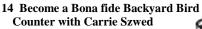
Wildlife Tracking at White Memorial Three Red Trees School of Natural Living instructors, Andrew Dobos and Deneen

Bernier take you wildlife tracking through the winter woods. Meet in the Museum. 10:00 A.M.

7 Ice Skating at Beaver Pond

Bring your skates and a mug for hot chocolate! 1:00 P.M. Meet at the intersection of Routes 61 / 63. Pre-register 860-567-0857

11 Hiking and Healthful Eating with Gerri Griswold See page 7 for details and registration.



Learn to identify birds commonly found at our feeders in preparation for the Great Backvard Bird Count. February 13- 16! 10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M. A. B. Ceder Room, Museum admission will be charged to non-members.



Calling All Owls with Brian Bradley See page 7 for details and registration.



16 Presidents Day **Museum Closed**

16-22 Museum Children Free Week*

Courtesy of The Laurel Ridge Foundation In Memory of Francesca M. Thompson, M.D.

20 Star Party!

Program and star gazing. 7:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room.

Winter Walk 21 with Gerri Griswold

Let's see what trails are most favorable for a stroll! 10:00 A.M.. Meet in front of the A. B. Ceder Room.



Magic Light Show: The Science and Beauty of the Aurora Borealis with Tom Alena 2:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room

MARCH

2 - 8 Museum Children Free Week*

Courtesy of Arthur and Tara Stacom Diedrick in Honor of Claire and Matthew Stacom

After School Adventures!!!!

Tuesdays and Wednesdays in March See page 3 for details.



Hiking and Healthful Eating with Gerri Griswold See page 7 for details and registration.



5 Nature's Nursery Series: See page 3

7 Wildlife Tracking at White Memorial

Three Red Trees School of Natural Living instructors, Andrew Dobos and Deneen Bernier take you wildlife tracking through the winter woods. Meet in the Museum. 10:00 A.M.

14 Winter Tree Identification with WMF Forest Superintendent Lukas Hyder Meet in the Museum parking lot. 10:00 A.M.

Nature of My Backyard Live native animal presentation with Creature Teachers! See page 7 for details and registration.



20 Star Party!

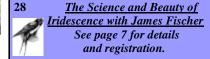
Program and star gazing. 7:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room.



21 90-North: An Overview of the Arctic with Moki Kokoris See page 7 for details and registration.



23-29 Museum Children Free Week* In Memory of Louise W. Willson



* Free admission to Children ages 12 and under when accompanied by an adult.



Adult Nature Study Workshops and Saturday Workshops: Winter 2015



Winter Landscape in Watercolor with Betsy Rogers-Knox Saturday, January 31, 2015 1:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. A. B. Ceder Room Registration Fee: Members: \$35.00 Non-Members: \$45.00



Hiking and Healthful Eating with Gerri Griswold Wednesday, February 11, 2015 6:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room Registration Fee: Members: \$15.00 Non-Members: \$25.00



Calling All Owls with Brian Bradley Saturday, February 14, 2015 2:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room Registration Fee: Members: \$15.00 Non-Members: \$25.00



Hiking and Healthful Eating with Gerri Griswold Wednesday, March 4, 2015 6:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room Registration Fee: Members: \$15.00 Non-Members: \$25.00



Nature of My Backyard with Rick Roth aka Creature Teachers! Saturday, March 14, 2015 2:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room, Registration Fee: Members: \$15.00 Non-Members: \$25.00



90-North: An Overview of the Arctic with Moki Kokoris Saturday, March 21, 2015 2:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room Registration Fee: Members: \$20.00 Non-Members: \$25.00



The Science and Beauty of Iridescence with James Fischer Saturday, March 28, 2015 2:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room

Registration Fee: Members: \$10.00 Non-Members: \$15.00

Create a winter wonderland for your wall with internationally celebrated botanical artist Betsy Rogers-Knox. Step-by-step instructions and plenty of demos provided! All levels are welcome. All materials included.

Learn how easy it is to make delicious, guilt free meals with former chef, Gerri Griswold. Griswold is on an all out war with obesity. Tonight's dish is a hearty beef borscht, white bean and rosemary hummus, and more! BRING YOUR OWN PLACE SETTING!

Master falconer and Conservation Center favorite Brian Bradley returns with a car load of characters! Barn Owl, Screech Owl, Eurasian Eagle Owl, Barred Owl, and Snowy Owl...their natural history and more will be discussed in this 90 minute presentation.

Learn how easy it is to make delicious, guilt free meals with former chef, Gerri Griswold. Griswold is on an all out war with obesity. Tonight's dish is a curried butternut squash and apple soup, roasted cauliflower with peanut dipping sauce, and more! BRING YOUR OWN PLACE SETTING!

Creature Teachers presents a variety of native animals commonly seen in our backyards. Get to know your neighbors! Some of the animals you might see today are flying squirrel, woodchuck, gray fox, and fisher! A great program for kids of all ages!

Spend quality time with this dynamic woman who has traveled to the geographic North Pole! Learn what it's like to be a reindeer or a musk ox. Handle a narwhal tusk. Shake hands (almost) with a polar bear. Because of the hands-on nature of this program, class participation is limited to 25. Don't miss out on this exciting presentation!

Color my world! Research Director James Fischer presents a stunning, image filled program illustrating the science of iridescence and its biological function within a variety of species including birds, insects, reptiles, and amphibians.

Winter Landscape in Watercolor	Member: \$35.00	Non Member: \$45.00
Hiking and Healthful Eating (February 11)	Member: \$15.00	Non Member: \$25.00
Calling All Owls	Member: \$15.00	Non Member: \$25.00
Hiking and Healthful Eating (March 4)	Member: \$15.00	Non Member: \$25.00
Nature of My Backyard	Member: \$15.00	Non Member: \$25.00
90-North: An Overview of the Arctic	Member: \$20.00	Non Member: \$25.00
The Science and Beauty of Iridescence	Member: \$10.00	Non Member: \$15.00
NameAddress		
City		
Phone	e-mail	
Please circle one: member non-member		

Become a member of the White Memorial Conservation Center and take advantage of the member discount, along with free admission to the Nature Museum, a discount in the Gift Shop, and receipt of the quarterly newsletter and calendar of events. Your taxdeductible fee will help sponsor programs like these. A family membership is \$50.00 per year and individual is \$35.00.

Make Check Pavable to WMCC Mail to: WMCC P.O. Box 368, Litchfield, CT 06759



For more information call 860-567-0857.





Payment enclosed: Program fee: \$ _____ Membership fee: \$ _____ Total \$ _

Winter giveth the fields, and the trees so old, Their beards of icicles and snow... Charles duc d'Orléans

Member: \$35.00 Non Member: \$45.00



TEACHERS & HOMESCHOOL PARENTS,

White Memorial Conservation Center has established a tradition of providing quality environmental education programming since 1964. Let us help you incorporate environmental education into your curriculum or enhance your current studies.

Education programs can be conducted at White Memorial or at your facility.

The Program Possibilities are Endless...



Amazing Adaptations
Do the Locomotion
Endangered Species
Focus on Food Webs
Habitat Chat
Our Local Ecosystems
Pond Prowl
Take a Hike
The Power of Plants
Wildlife in Winter
...and more!



We are also happy to design a program that caters to your needs.

Just ask!

Visit whitememorialcc.org for more information and a complete list of programs with detailed descriptions, including the CT Curriculum Standards they meet.

Call 860-567-0857 to book your next program with White Memorial!

What's Inside This Edition of SANCTUARY

	Annual Appeal2
	Nature Day3
	Children's Programs3
	Research4
	Volunteer Spotlight5
	Events Calendar6
	Adult Nature and Saturday
	Workshops7
ı	

Give the Gift of Nature To Yourself or a Loved One.

> Become a Member of White Memorial Conservation Center.



Individual Membership: \$35.00 Family Membership: \$50.00

Call 860-567-0857

or

www.whitememorialcc.org